

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 ACDA-19 GAC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

IO-12 NEA-10 /159 R

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TO USMISSION NATO

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064125

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, MT, NATO

SUBJECT: MALTA: SPECIAL PAYMENTS

REF: A) VALLETTA 648; B USNATO 1659; C) VALLETTA 671

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED POINTS RAISED BY GOM IN RESPONSE TO ALLIED MEMORANDUM OF MARCH 28 AS WELL AS COMMENTS BY USNATO AND EMBASSY VALLETTA IN REFS B AND C. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE MAY BE DRAWN ON BY USNATO IN CONSIDERING NEXT STEP WITH OTHER CONTRIBUTORS. WE, OF COURSE, WISH OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW ANY PROPOSED ALLIED MESSAGE BEFORE IT TRANSMITTED TO GOM.

2. REGARDING CALCULATION OF 1973 SPECIAL PAYMENT, WE RE-ITERATE THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE TOTAL FOR YEAR
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UNTIL CONTRIBUTORS HAVE COMPLETED PURCHASE OF REGULAR STERLING SHARES FOR SAME PERIOD. AS AMBASSADOR GETZ TOLD MIZZI APRIL 2, NATO OFFER REMAINS EXACTLY AS PRESENTED IN JANUARY AND ACCEPTED BY GOM IN WRITING FEBRUARY 14. WE MUST MAKE CLEAR TO GOM THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO OFFER ANY ADVANCE GUARANTEE OF EXACT AMOUNTS AND, MOREOVER, REAFFIRM POINT MADE BY AMBASSADOR GETZ TO MIZZI THAT WE LIKEWISE UNABLE TO GIVE IRONCLAD ASSURANCE OF QUOTE NO SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE UNQUOTE FROM ESTIMATES SUPPLIED TO GOM ON JANUARY 10. AT SAME TIME, WE ARE PREPARED TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN HELPING GOM CALCULATE SUM IT WILL RECEIVE AND WE THEREFORE ENDORSE VALLETTA' S SUGGESTIONS (REF C, PARA ONE, POINTS A, B. AND C) AND HOPE OTHER CONTRIBUTORS CAN AGREE TO THEM.

3. ON QUESTION OF SPECIAL PAYMENTS AFTER 1973, WE ARE NOT RPT NOT PREPARED TO GO BEYOND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION FORMULATION ALREADY OFFERED GOM. AS STRESSED WHEN WE FIRST AGREED TO SUPPORT QUOTE ITALIAN PROPOSAL UNQUOTE (STATE 2228, JANUARY 5), DECISION TO OFFER SPECIAL PAYMENT IN 1973 WAS REACHED WITH UTMOST CARE WITHIN USG AND REPRESENTED LIMIT OF WHAT WE PREPARED TO DO. WE STATED THEN AND HAVE REPEATED THAT IF UK- MALTA PACT REMAINS EFFECTIVE WE WOULD CONSIDER FUTURE YEARS PAYMENT OUTSIDE AGREEMENT. TO PROVIDE ASSURANCE OF SUCH PAYMENT, HOWEVER, AT A RATE WHICH GOM MIGHT WELL EXPECT TO BE FIXED IN ADVANCE, REPRESENTS TO US CURRENCY FLUCTUATION GUARANTEE WHICH WE OPPOSE IN PRINCIPLE. THERE ARE ALSO VERY PRACTICAL INHIBITIONS FROM BUDGETARY AND APPROPRIATIONS STANDPOINT AGAINST MAKING COMMITMENT OF THIS KIND. WE THEREFORE AGREE WITH RECOMMENDATION D RPT D IN VALLETTA 671, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO NEED FOR CLARIFYING TERM QUOTE SIMILAR PAYMENTS UNQUOTE. HOWEVER, RE PARA 1- E, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO REVEAL BUDGET PLANNING TO GOM IN ADVANCE OF PRESENTATION TO CONGRESS OR OTHERWISE GIVE ASSURANCES ON THIS POINT. ROGERS

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